

# LGBA strengthens despite acts of bias

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UB appears not to be immune to the ignorance of intolerance. The Lesbian Gay Bisexual Alliance (LGBA) has experienced many kinds of prejudice, both in their office and around campus. There was spray-painting in Baldy Walkway, with one message stating, "Die Fags." LGBA has also received many obscene phone calls, including numerous threatening calls.

## Many acts of intolerance

According to the log books that LGBA keeps, there have been many acts of intolerance committed against the lesbian, gay and bisexual community on campus. The old office in Talbert has been defaced, and there is also an anti-gay message in the walkway to Bell Hall. Last year, there was an incident where someone walked by, picked up a garbage can and threw the garbage in the office. It hit one person in the leg, but no one was hurt. At the old office in Talbert Hall, someone attempted to take the nameplate off of the door, and the damage is still there.

Two years ago, people made up anti-gay flyers and hung them up on the Spine. They depicted a stick man and woman, and the message read "God created Adam and Eve, not Adam and Steve."

Flyers were also hung, saying that AIDS is a gay disease and that gays are the only ones that spread it.

Last year, LGBA was mistakenly blamed for a large hole in the bathroom near their old office. There was also some graffiti sprayed in the bathroom, but the matter was later cleared up by Public Safety.

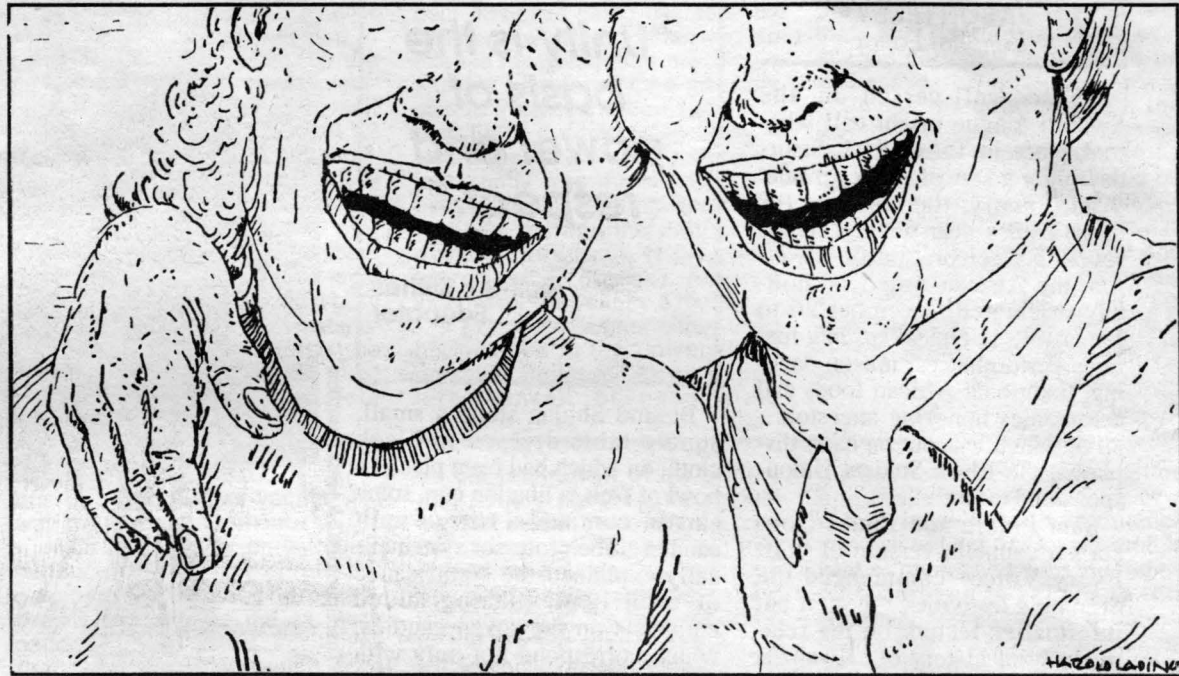
## LGBA 'more visible'

According to Liz Brooks, president of LGBA, one reason people may take part in gay-bashing is because "they could have problems with their [own] sexual orientation or their [own] homosexuality." Another reason why people might do this is because they receive peer pressure from their friends, Brooks suggested.

"Since LGBA has been more visible this semester, people try to threaten us with backlash because we've become more visible, but it won't keep us back," Brooks said. "It makes us work harder to organize collectively on campus."

LGBA has been working on many projects this semester. On Friday, November 20, the organization had an AIDS fundraiser called "Red, Hot and Live" in Talbert Bullpen, which featured seven bands.

"We are currently working on a fundraiser for Christmas called Act-Up," Brooks said. "It's a party to help the homeless and poor children."



There was also a Drag Show on November 15 at the Katharine Cornell Theatre, which also featured seven bands.

## Promoting gay activism

LGBA also holds many coffee houses during the semester, which are social functions with different themes. "It's a chance for people to come together outside of the official meeting setting," Brooks explained.

Recently, LGBA did a demonstration with the Freedom School, called a "Kiss-In." It is a kind of

formalized activism, in which people kiss someone of the same sex to promote gay activism.

Another important activity LGBA has been doing is going around to area high schools and speaking. They have also spoken in some UB classes, including the University Experience and Human Sexuality classes. LGBA also dressed up as clowns for the Camp Good Days and Special Times Carnival.

*Ways in Being Gay* is a film festival run at Hallwalls which features different performers celebrating gay rights. Recently, University Union Activities Board (UUAB) and LGBA jointly conducted such a film festival in Woldman Theatre.

"In the spring, we plan to get a bus to go down to Washington to

march there," Brooks said. "We are involved in many different things, not just gay events," she said.

## Coming out at UB

Within LGBA, there is also a women's discussion group, which focuses on different women's issues. It is a chance for women to feel more comfortable expressing themselves. There is also a group for people in the process of "coming out," or for people coming to terms with their homosexuality.

Through the above efforts by the organization and increased education, LGBA is working toward establishing an atmosphere on campus in which people will feel more comfortable with their own homosexuality and that of others.

# GREEKS & SNEAKS